



Satellite image with enhanced low cloud-top temperatures (degrees C) for 7:00 a.m. EST (NOAA)

### **Agricultural Weather Highlights - Tuesday - February 5, 2002**

- ***In the West***, cool weather continues to slow vegetable and small grain development in winter agricultural areas of ***California and Arizona***. Farther north, a few showers are overspreading the ***Pacific Northwest***.
- ***On the Plains***, snow is returning ***western portions of Texas and Oklahoma***, while rain is overspreading the remainder of the ***south-central U.S.***, where pastures and winter grains are benefiting from improved soil moisture. In contrast, mild, dry, breezy weather continues to severely stress winter wheat on the ***northern High Plains***.
- ***In the Corn Belt***, milder weather and diminishing winds are easing stress on livestock and favoring dormant winter wheat.
- ***In the South***, rain is overspreading areas from the ***lower Mississippi Valley westward***, slowing land preparation activities and maintaining adequate to locally surplus soil moisture levels. Meanwhile in the ***Southeast***, cool weather is slowing pasture and winter grain development, following last week's record warmth.

**Outlook:** A storm system will continue to cross the ***South***, producing snow from ***western Texas to the southern Appalachians*** and rain farther south. The storm is forecast to exit the ***Southeast*** by Friday, followed by a return to cool, dry weather nearly nationwide. Exceptions include the ***Northwest***, where showers will continue, and the ***northern Plains***, where mild, breezy weather is forecast to persist. The NWS 6-10 day outlook for February 10-14 calls for above-normal temperatures from the ***Plains to the East Coast***, and near- to below-normal temperatures in the ***West***. Near- to above-normal precipitation is forecast in the ***Pacific Northwest*** and from the ***Mississippi River eastward***, but mostly dry weather is expected across the ***Plains and Southwest***.

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